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CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A method in a data processing system for settling a bill, the method comprising:
presenting a set of items for a bill for which
payment is required;
receiving user input identifying items from the set
10 of items for payment by a particular person to form
identified items;
processing payment for the identified items; and
repeating the receiving and processing steps until
all items in the set of items have been identified for
15 payment.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the processing step
comprises:
receiving credit card information from the
20 particular person.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the credit card
information is obtained from a magnetic strip on a credit
card.
- 25 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the data processing
system is selected from one of a personal digital
assistant or a tablet personal computer.

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5. The method of claim 1, wherein the bill is a restaurant bill.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the data processing
5 system processes the payment by sending payment information to a server data processing system in communication with the data processing system.
7. The method of 6, wherein the data processing system
10 is in communication with the server data processing system using a wireless communications link.
8. A method in a data processing system for processing payment for a plurality of items on a restaurant bill,
15 the data processing system comprising:
 presenting the plurality of items on a graphical user interface;
 receiving user input, selecting items from the plurality of items on the graphical user interface, to
20 group the plurality of items into a set of accounts; and
 processing payment of the set of accounts.
9. A data processing system for settling a bill, the data processing system comprising:
25 presenting means for presenting a set of items for a bill for which payment is required;
 receiving means for receiving user input identifying items from the set of items for payment by a particular person to form identified items;

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processing means for processing payment for the identified items; and

repeating means for repeating initiation of the receiving means and processing means until all items in
5 the set of items have been identified for payment.

10. The data processing system of claim 9, wherein the processing means comprises:

means for receiving credit card information from the
10 particular person.

11. The data processing system of claim 10, wherein the credit card information is obtained from a magnetic strip on a credit card.

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12. The data processing system of claim 9, wherein the data processing system is selected from one of a personal digital assistant or a tablet personal computer.

20 13. The data processing system of claim 9, wherein the bill is a restaurant bill.

14. The data processing system of claim 9, wherein the data processing system processes the payment by sending
25 payment information to a server data processing system in communication with the data processing system.

15. The data processing system of 14, wherein the data processing system is in communication with the server

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data processing system using a wireless communications link.

16. A data processing system for processing payment for
5 a plurality of items on a restaurant bill, the data
processing system comprising:

presenting means for presenting the plurality of
items on a graphical user interface;

- receiving means for receiving user input, selecting
10 items from the plurality of items on the graphical user
interface, to group the plurality of items into a set of
accounts; and

processing means for processing payment of the set
of accounts.

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17. A data processing system for settling a bill, the
data processing system comprising:

a bus system;

- a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the
20 memory includes a set of instructions;

- a processing unit connected to the bus system,
wherein the processing unit executes the set of
instructions to present a set of items for a bill for
which payment is required; receive user input identifying
25 items from the set of items for payment by a particular
person to form identified items; process payment for the
identified items; and repeat the instructions to receive
and to process until all items in the set of items have
been identified for payment.

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18. A data processing system for processing payment for a plurality of items on a restaurant bill, the data processing system comprising:

a bus system;

5 a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the memory includes a set of instructions;

a processing unit connected to the bus system, wherein the processing unit executes the set of instructions to present the plurality of items on a graphical user interface; receive user input, selecting items from the plurality of items on the graphical user interface, to group the plurality of items into a set of accounts; and process payment of the set of accounts.

15 19. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for settling a bill, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for presenting a set of items for a bill for which payment is required;

20 second instructions for receiving user input identifying items from the set of items for payment by a particular person to form identified items;

third instructions for processing payment for the identified items; and

25 fourth instructions for repeating initiation of the second instructions and third instructions until all items in the set of items have been identified for payment.

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20. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for processing payment for a plurality of items on a restaurant bill, the computer program product comprising:

- 5 first instructions for presenting the plurality of items on a graphical user interface;
- second instructions for receiving user input, selecting items from the plurality of items on the graphical user interface, to group the plurality of items
- 10 into a set of accounts; and
- third instructions for processing payment of the set of accounts.